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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

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Conditions Indicate Big Wheat Crop

Crop Reporting Board estimated winter wheat production April 1 at 964 million bushels, 36 percent more than last year and 13 percent above average, as conditions favored this crop in the principal wheat areas.

In Plains areas (subject to heavy blowing losses in dry years) the unusually wet spring has been beneficial. Not so in Eastern and South-eastern sections of the country, where many fields were in poor condition; but the less favorable prospects here were more than offset by excellent prospects in the more important wheat areas, the Great Plains and the Northwest.

The April 1 forecast points to the fourth largest winter wheat crop yet grown--not exceeded since 1952 and larger than last year's winter and spring wheat crops combined. Indicated yield at 21.9 bushels per seeded acre is the highest of record and compares with 18.8 bushels in 1957 and the average of 15.9 bushels.

Wheat Abandonment Small

Only about 6 percent of the total acreage seeded to wheat has been abandoned or diverted to uses other than grain. Last year, nearly 16 percent of the total acreage seeded was abandoned. Of the 2.5 million acres abandoned this year, about 1 million acres are in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico. This compares with about 4.5 million acres abandoned in these same States in 1957. Last year's total abandonment of wheat was 5.9 million acres.

Other Crops Slowed by Wet March

Periods of heavy snow last month in the Mid-Atlantic States and elsewhere, and heavy and continued rainfall in California and in many Central and Southern areas hindered crops and livestock affairs... contributed to increased livestock feeding and less than usual increases in milk and egg production. Winter oats and barley look less favorable than wheat with many Southeastern plantings less likely than usual to be harvested for grain.

Vegetable Crops Below Average

Spring vegetable production is expected to be smaller than in 1957, largely as a result of cold, wet weather during recent months. Forecasts indicate a drop from last year of about 4 percent, and 3 percent below average. Significant declines expected for onions, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, celery, broccoli, asparagus, green peppers, cauliflower and green peas. Sizable increases, however, for cucumbers and tomatoes.

Smaller Egg Production

The 5.5 billion eggs laid during March were 7 percent less than in March last year and the smallest total for the month since 1941. Total

January through March of 15.5 billion eggs was 4 percent below the same period last year. Number of layers April 1 was down 3 percent from a year earlier, and rate of lay was down 2 percent. Declines occurred in all regions except the West.

Milk Production Same as Last Year

The 10.9 billion pounds of milk produced in March was about the same as last year and 10 percent above the 1947-56 average. Production January through March totaled 30.2 billion pounds compared with 30.1 billion a year earlier.

On a per capita basis, the March production (2.04 pounds daily for each person) was down from a year ago about 1 percent.

Fruits Fared Well Last Month

Florida weather in March was almost ideal for citrus progress. These fruits made rapid recovery from winter frost effects except on the most heavily damaged trees, and bloom in many

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Feb. 15 1958	Mar. 15 1958	March 1958
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)	24.91	26.05	38.33
Wheat (bu.)	1.92	1.96	2.41
Rice (100 lb.)	5.02	5.04	5.93
Corn (bu.) .....	.958	1.00	1.76
Peanuts (lb.)	9.64	10.1	13.0
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.)	59.4	59.4	75.4
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)	4.33	4.18	5.02
Wool (lb.)	44.4	40.7	70.2
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.) .....	.867	.851	1.35
Cottonseed (ton)	49.90	51.20	69.30
Flaxseed (bu.)	2.84	2.73	4.32
Hay, baled (ton)	18.70	18.50	25.70
Oats (bu.) .....	.611	.621	.879
Potatoes (bu.)	2.12	3.25	2.44
Rye (bu.) .....	.958	.966	1.59
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)	1.62	1.69	2.64
Soybeans (bu.)	2.05	2.10	3.02
Sweetpotatoes (bu.)	5.42	5.52	5.47
Oranges, on tree (box)	2.25	2.08	2.38
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)	2.32	2.46	3.07
Beef cattle (100 lb.)	20.60	21.70	23.10
Calves (100 lb.)	23.40	24.00	25.40
Hogs (100 lb.)	19.70	20.30	21.90
Lambs (100 lb.)	22.00	21.50	25.90
Chickens, all (lb.)	19.4	20.8	28.4
Eggs (dozen)	36.6	40.8	48.3

¹ Preliminary.

² Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

groves has been heavy although later than usual. Texas citrus trees are in good condition with ample moisture supplies. Southern peaches had the best April 1 condition since 1945, after long dormancy and relatively light frost damage. Deciduous fruits in other areas had mainly favorable prospects.

Most Citrus, Smaller Crops than Last Year

This season's orange crop, estimated at 114 million boxes, is 16 percent below last year and 6 percent below average. Early and Midseason oranges, at 64.6 million boxes, are 10 percent below last year but 11 percent above average; Valencias at 47.4 million boxes are 21 percent below last year and 20 percent below average. About 33.6 million boxes of all oranges remained to be picked on April 1, compared with 58.8 million a year earlier.

The Florida tangerine crop, now harvested, was reduced chiefly by the freeze to 2.3 million

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1957			1958	
	Mar.	Yr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	58.4	58.8	57.6	57.2	57.2
Farm employment	6.4	7.6	5.4	5.4	6.2
Family	5.1	5.8	4.5	4.5	5.0
Hired	1.3	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.2
Index numbers (1947-49=100)					
Industrial production ²	145	143	145	130	128
Total personal income payments ³	168	170	166	169	-
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	164	163	166	145	143
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	155	156	156	152	153
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	117	118	117	⁵ 119	⁵ 120
Farm commodities	89	91	89	⁵ 96	⁵ 100
Food, processed	104	106	104	⁵ 110	⁵ 111
Consumer price index ⁴	119	120	118	122	-
Food	113	115	113	119	-
Index numbers (1910-14=100)					
Prices received by farmers	238	242	247	252	263
Crops	237	234	225	229	244
Food grains	235	225	217	219	224
Feed grains and hay	181	170	146	148	152
Cotton	252	264	232	211	220
Tobacco	459	465	474	475	475
Oil bearing crops	265	253	233	229	234
Fruit	237	214	183	200	228
Vegetables for fresh market	252	256	334	376	396
Livestock and products	238	249	267	273	280
Meat animals	263	278	308	324	336
Dairy products	260	263	269	266	261
Poultry and eggs	150	162	174	169	187
Prices paid by farmers					
All commodities	272	273	277	278	281
Used in living	284	286	289	290	293
Used in production	258	258	264	265	258
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index)	294	296	301	302	304
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted	554	558	567	567	567
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index)	81	82	82	83	87

¹ Bureau of the Census.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² Federal Reserve Board.

⁵ Revised, new weightings.

³ Department of Commerce.

boxes. This is less than half of both last year and average.

Grapefruit production, at 39.9 million boxes is 11 percent below last year and 14 percent below average. About 5.8 million boxes remained to be picked on April 1, compared with 12.6 million same date last year.

California lemons, at 15.6 million boxes, were 4 percent less than last year's production, though 20 percent above average.

Adequate Water, Good Pastures

Adequate irrigation water supplies were practically assured by increased rain and mountain snow during March, throughout most of the West. Pasture condition April 1 varied greatly but averaged best for the date, for the country as a whole, since 1949.

Below Average Wheat Stocks on Farms

The 176 million bushels of wheat remaining on farms April 1 are slightly above the 167 million a year earlier, but 22 percent below the 10-year average. More than half the total wheat on farms was under Government loan or purchase agreement.

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan. - Feb. 1957	Jan. - Feb. 1958
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk	Bil. lb.	130.1	130.2
Evaporated whole milk	Mil. lb.	333.0	280.0
Dry nonfat milk solids			
(for human food)	Mil. lb.	259.0	277.8
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	226.1	230.5
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	134.2	132.3
Ice cream	Mil. gal.	84.7	84.8
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs	Billions	¹ 16.2	¹ 15.5
Poultry meat ²	Mil. lb.	622	664
Canned poultry	Mil. lb.	33.6	45.1
Liquid egg	Mil. lb.	57.2	66.2
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	4.5	3.7
Frozen egg	Mil. lb.	34.2	46.9
Chicks hatched, total ³	Millions	¹ 586	¹ 636
Chicks hatched, broiler ³	Millions	¹ 390	¹ 425
Poults hatched ³			
Heavy breeds	Millions	¹ 21.2	¹ 17.5
Light breeds	Millions	¹ 3.0	¹ 2.9
<u>Meat Production²</u> (dressed weight)			
Beef	Mil. lb.	2,405	2,171
Veal	Mil. lb.	234	192
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,691	1,601
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	132	112
Total red meat	Mil. lb.	4,462	4,076
<u>Slaughter²</u>			
Cattle	1,000 head	4,472	3,969
Calves	1,000 head	1,978	1,680
Hogs	1,000 head	12,875	12,135
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	2,710	2,248

¹ January-March

² Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

³ By commercial hatcheries.

Other Stocks on Farms, April 1

Corn stocks, estimated at 1.7 billion bushels, are 3 percent above 1.6 billion bushels on farms a year earlier. Except for 1949, stocks are highest for April 1 of record.

Oats stocks of 543 million bushels are up nearly a third from the small holdings of a year earlier and are about 9 percent more than the 10-year April 1 average.

Barley stocks on farms, estimated at the all-time record of 149-2 million bushels, are 41 percent larger than a year ago, and up from average by 76 percent.

Rye stocks on farms are estimated at 7.7 million bushels--75 percent more than the 4.4 million a year earlier and 57 percent larger than average.

Flaxseed stocks, at 6.8 million bushels, is a small total, less than half that of a year earlier and about a fourth less than the average April 1 holdings.

Soybeans farm stocks, at 116 million bushels, top last year's holdings of 115 million and are more than double the 10-year average.

Sorghum grain stocks on farms total 96.1 million bushels--more than triple the 27.2 million holdings of a year earlier.

Smaller Crop of Early Spring Potatoes

Production of early spring potatoes, indicated at 3,748,000 hundredweight, is about 15 percent below that of 1957. Later than usual movement to market is anticipated from Florida and other important areas.

Winter crop, at 4,780,000 cwt., was also considerably smaller than the 6,790,000 cwt. produced in 1957.

Meat Output Down from Last Year

Red meat production first two months of the year totaled 4,076 million pounds (commercial slaughter) 9 percent below the 4,462 million pounds a year earlier. Total included beef, 2,171 million pounds, down 10 percent from last year; veal, 192 million pounds, down 18 percent; pork, 1,601 million pounds, down 5 percent; mutton and lamb, 112 million pounds, down 15 percent.

The number of cattle slaughtered during the 2-month period was 11 percent below the comparable period of 1957; the number of calves slaughtered was down 15 percent; hog slaughter was down 6 percent; and sheep and lamb slaughter was down 17 percent.

More Canned Poultry

The 45,144,000 pounds of poultry used in canning and other processed foods during January and February was 34 percent more than the 33,563,000 pounds for these 2 months a year earlier. Totals included turkeys, 10,546,000 and 5,696,000 pounds; mature chickens, 29,681,000 and 24,364,000 pounds; young chickens, 4,917,000 and 3,503,000 pounds.

More Sows Farrowing

The estimated 5,702,000 sows farrowing this spring (December through May) for ten Corn Belt States are 6 percent more than in the spring of 1957 (revised estimate for last spring, 5,404,000).

For the summer quarter (June through August) breeding intentions indicate 2,268,000 sows to farrow--an increase of 13 percent from the 2,013,000 farrowed a year earlier.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings by States, February 1958¹

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine.....	8,406	11,555	19,961
New Hampshire.....	4,452	769	5,221
Vermont.....	7,875	884	8,759
Massachusetts.....	9,085	2,923	12,008
Rhode Island.....	1,029	428	1,457
Connecticut.....	8,606	4,095	12,701
New York.....	46,449	13,605	60,054
New Jersey.....	14,864	3,779	18,643
Pennsylvania.....	45,081	11,888	56,969
Ohio.....	49,602	15,086	64,688
Indiana.....	54,390	28,194	82,584
Illinois.....	88,466	79,971	168,437
Michigan.....	30,648	15,875	46,523
Wisconsin.....	81,301	8,762	90,063
Minnesota.....	80,663	30,697	111,360
Iowa.....	156,791	71,475	228,266
Missouri.....	52,434	12,429	64,863
North Dakota.....	13,612	20,258	33,870
South Dakota.....	35,256	14,043	49,299
Nebraska.....	61,846	50,430	112,276
Kansas.....	41,726	39,222	80,948
Delaware.....	6,029	681	6,710
Maryland.....	13,643	1,666	15,309
Virginia.....	16,115	7,193	23,308
West Virginia.....	4,650	1,296	5,946
North Carolina.....	19,761	10,204	29,965
South Carolina.....	6,926	5,140	12,066
Georgia.....	28,313	6,381	34,694
Florida.....	13,684	52,134	65,818
Kentucky.....	17,692	4,059	21,751
Tennessee.....	15,864	6,688	22,552
Alabama.....	17,506	6,144	23,650
Mississippi.....	12,966	12,206	25,172
Arkansas.....	13,369	12,336	25,705
Louisiana.....	9,119	7,326	16,445
Oklahoma.....	21,905	6,496	28,401
Texas.....	57,127	62,398	119,525
Montana.....	10,473	10,218	20,691
Idaho.....	13,400	11,162	24,562
Wyoming.....	3,264	1,228	4,492
Colorado.....	21,877	10,308	32,185
New Mexico.....	7,992	2,047	10,039
Arizona.....	8,243	21,243	29,486
Utah.....	7,748	1,663	9,411
Nevada.....	2,897	725	3,622
Washington.....	14,907	20,095	35,002
Oregon.....	11,628	9,594	21,222
California.....	75,469	72,070	147,539
United States.....	1,345,149	799,069	2,144,218

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

	February 1958	March 1958 ²
CASH RECEIPTS:	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Total marketings and CCC loans ³	2,144	2,100
Livestock and products	1,345	1,500
Meat animals	738	
Dairy products	355	
Poultry and eggs	223	
Other	29	
Crops	799	600
Food grains	69	
Feed crops	328	
Cotton (lint and seed)	82	
Oil-bearing crops	63	
Tobacco	10	
Vegetables	96	
Fruits and tree nuts	79	
Other	72	
Government payments	31	
Grand total	2,175	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:	1947-49 = 100	
All commodities	97	89
Livestock and products	105	115
Crops	85	54

¹For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ²Preliminary. ³Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Farm-retail spread	Farmer's share
1957 average	1,007	400	607	40
1957 February	988	380	608	38
1958 January	1,042	420	622	40
1958 February	1,049	429	620	41

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

More Cattle on Feed

The 4.9 million head of cattle and calves on feed April 1, in 13 major feeding States, topped the number a year earlier by 12 percent. The number was down only 2 percent from the January 1 inventory as compared with a 15 percent decline for the same period in both 1957 and 1956.

More Short-Term Feeders

Number on feed less than 3 months April 1 was up 28 percent while the number over 6 months was down 26 percent, from a year earlier. But the number on feed 3 to 6 months was up 5 percent.

Late Spring Slows Farm Employment

The 6,161,000 persons at work on farms in late March were down from a year earlier by 4 percent; family workers, 4,972,000, were down 3 percent; hired workers, 1,189,000, were down 5 percent. Compared with a month earlier, total at work in late March was up 13 percent. This was less than the usual rise for this season of the year, due in part to the late spring.

Decline in farm employment from a year earlier occurred in all regions except the West North Central States . . . ranged from a 1-percent decline in the East North Central and Mountain regions to 10 percent in the South Atlantic States.

Farm Wage Rates up From Last Year

Farm wage rates April 1 averaged 1 percent higher than a year earlier. Seasonally adjusted wage rate index was 567 percent of the 1910-14 average compared with 562 last April. Rate per hour, without board or room was 94 cents compared with 92 cents year earlier. (For details by Geographic Divisions, see Farm Labor report, Crop Reporting Board, AMS, USDA).

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